

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER
2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an email to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

A NEW 70 CM RECORD SET

THE IARU REGION 1 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE HELD THIS WEEK

and

THE CQ WW DX SSB CONTEST NEXT WEEKEND

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with the news of three silent keys:

It is deep regret that we announce that the keys of Sias van Deventer, ZS3SI; Gerry Pieterse, ZS6GER and Gary Potgieter, ZS5NK have gone silent.

Sias van Deventer, ZS1SVD / ZS3SI passed away on Monday 27 July 2020 after suffering a heart attack. We extend our sincere condolences to his son Sian, ZS3TX, family and friends.

Gerry Pieterse, ZS6GER passed away on Friday 9 October shortly after his 75th birthday. Gerry was a well-known journalist and started his career by covering the Vietnam war. He lived in New York for many years where he worked for the New York Times, before returning to South Africa. He could be heard on the airwaves speaking with an American accent even though his home language was Afrikaans. We extend our sincere condolences to his sister, family and friends.

Gary Potgieter, ZS5NK passed away on Sunday 11 October. Gary was both a founder and honorary life member of the Highway Amateur Radio Club as well as a founding member and Past President of the Antique Wireless Association. He was a true ambassador for the hobby and his love for DX and valve radio was what set him apart from the crowd and he was always willing to help newcomers

to the hobby to wet their feet in DX. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Barbara, family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE NARC IS CLOSED ON MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

The office at the NARC will be closed for business on Monday 19 October. Kelley will be back in the office on Tuesday 20 October.

A NEW 70 CM RECORD SET

Paul, ZS6NK notified SARL News that a new 70 cm record has been set. On Friday evening 16 October at 18:06 UTC, Tom, ZS1TA in JF95EX contacted Gary, ZD7GWM in IH74DB on 70 cm FM. The distance between the two stations is 3 136,7 km. Well done Tom and Gary!

THE IARU REGION 1 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE HELD THIS WEEK

The 2020 IARU Region 1 General Conference was opened at 07:00 UTC on Sunday 11th October with 47 Member Societies attending the conference and 3 Member Societies had handed in their proxy. There were just over 200 delegates and observers from these 43 Member Societies IARU management. The 5 Committees reviewed 87 papers during the week. The SARL Paper on the Noise Monitoring Project was well received in C7 - EMC and it was recommended that the SARL and DARC continue with their work.

There was a positive response to the SARL Technology WG Paper; a sub-committee group has been established to work on the scope and terms of reference. Hans, ZS6AKV will be the SARL representative. A committee was formed for the registration of Morse code as an intangible cultural heritage and Dennis, ZS4BS is the SARL representative.

The Final Plenary was held on Friday 16th October starting at 07:00 UTC. There were 60 recommendations from the five committees with one recommendation withdrawn and 58 recommendations accepted by the meeting. Dennis, ZS4BS was re-elected as the Region 1 HF Beacon Coordinator for the next three years.

Nico, ZS6QL thanks the SARL Team for their time and input to the conference, thank you to Hans, ZS6AKV; Rassie, ZS1YT; Guy, ZS6GUY; Brian, ZS6YZ; Anton, ZR6AIC; Nick, ZS1N; Phillip, ZS6PVT; Koos, ZR6KF; Dave, ZS2DH and Dennis, ZS4BS. There will be a report in the November Radio ZS.

THE AUGUST RADIO AMATEUR EXAM

All licences for candidates who passed the August RAE have been issued by ICASA. The licences and certificates will be e-mailed out to all candidates shortly by the SARL administrator. There are 117 licences that have been

issued, so please be patient, you will receive your licence and documentation in due course.

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THE IARU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ADDRESSED A WIDE-RANGING AGENDA IN ITS VIRTUAL MEETING

The International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council (AC) met in a virtual session from 8th to 10th October. EMC Coordinator Martin Sach, G8KDF reported on work being done to address the need for reasonable standards to limit the proliferating threat of radio spectrum pollution from digital devices and wireless power transmission. IARU Beacon Project Coordinator Peter Jennings, AB6WM/VE3SUN, reported on the status of the NCDXF/IARU beacon network, explaining recent and planned upgrades, as well as the network's many applications.

In his report, Satellite Advisor Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T described the work of the Satellite Frequency Coordination Panel. He reported that steps are being taken to address the growing number of non-amateur satellites that use amateur satellite spectrum. Special Advisor for Emergency Communications Rod Stafford, W6ROD, explained his work representing the IARU in the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D), particularly with regard to disaster communications, and preparations for the World Telecommunication Development Conference next month. He highlighted an opportunity to promote amateur radio in ITU-D as a training platform for youth.

Preparations are already under way for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), currently expected to be held in 2023. A team of some 20 IARU volunteers from all continents is engaged in the preparatory processes of the ITU and the regional telecommunications organizations. The AC reviewed a draft of IARU's positions on WRC-23 agenda items of concern.

A committee was formed in 2019 to address growing pressure on amateur spectrum, particularly secondary allocations, at 144 MHz and above. The panel reported on its work to date in defining present and future spectrum requirements. Additional information will be sought from the amateur community on how this spectrum is being utilized.

CONTEST NEWS

The CQ WW DX SSB contest will dominate the weekend of 24 and 25 October, find the rules at <https://www.cqww.com>. In a year where travel to interesting destinations is curtailed, there may be fewer multipliers, but expect the trend of more overall stations being on the air to continue. Activity is on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. The exchange is a RS report and your CQ Zone, for South Africa it is Zone 38.

The combined results for the two 2020 SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contests - all

stations were Base, Single category - have been released.

1st Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ - 142 413 points

2nd Rickus de Lange, ZS4A - 30 149 points

3rd Christiaan Greyling, ZR6AUI/4 - 22 807 points

PARC FLEA MARKET ON 31 OCTOBER

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club will be hosting their next flea market on Saturday 31 October 2020 at the Pretoria Old Motor Club in Keuning Street, Silverton. The gates will open at 09:00 for sellers and at 10:00 for others. There is a large open area with shade and trees for sales from bakkies or trailers, a limited number of tables are available. Strict Covid 19 regulations will apply. To book a table, please contact Almero, ZS6LDP on mobile 083 938 8955 or e-mail to almero.dupisani@up.ac.za. Everyone is welcome.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There is currently only a single sunspot region with a simple magnetic configuration visible. No major solar flaring is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. With the recent equinox the 15 to 30 m bands will, especially around sunset, provide some good DX fun. 10 m may also have some surprises in store during the late afternoons. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

24 and 25 October – the CQ WW DX SSB contest

31 October – the SARL 95 40 m Club Sprint

07 November – the RaDAR Challenge

14 November – the Overberg ARC year-end function

14 and 15 November – the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The office at the NARC will be closed for business on Monday 19th October. Kelley will be back in the office on Tuesday 20th October.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page.

News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.